THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some portions of road along the coastline in the State of Gujarat have not been covered by National Highways.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

Increase in road accidents

2045. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steady increase in the number of road accidents in the country;

(b) the number of such accidents taken place during the year 2001;

(c) what action is being taken to contain such accidents; and

(d) whether any compensation has been given to the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) As per information available the number of road accidents during last three years are as under:

Year	Road Accidents
1998	385018
1999	381911 (P)
2000	382897 (P)

(P = Provisional)

(b) The accident data for the year 2001 is not available.

(c) Steps taken to contain accidents are as under:

(i) Widening of single lane to 2-lanes

(ii) Widening of selected 2-lane sections to 4/6-lane

(iii) Improvement of road geometrics

(iv) Construction of bypasses

(v) Reconstruction of weak and narrow bridges and culverts

(vi) Providing paved shoulders

(vii) Strengthening weak pavements

(viii) Junction improvements

(ix) Replacement of level crossings by road over-bridges

(x) Retro-reflective road signs

(xi) Thermoplastic road markings

(xii) Provision of parking lay byes

(xiii) Provision of Service Roads

(xiv) Wayside amenities on high traffic density corridors,

(xv) Giving grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes in order to create awareness among the public,

(xvi) Refresher training of Heavy Motor Vehicle Drivers and use of driving simulators.

(xvii) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

(xviii) National Award has been instituted for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(xix) All India Essay Competition on road safety are organized for school children for creating awareness among the school children.

(xx) Observance of Road Safety Week in the first week of every year across the country.

(xxi) Annual fitness certificate of commercial vehicles is necessary as per provision of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(xxii) Introduction of Smart Card based driving licenses.

(xxiii) Transport Minister's Trophy for State Transport Undertakings having lowest accident record, and

(xxiv) Provision of cranes and ambulances under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme to States/NGOs.

(d) The Compensation is given to the accident victims on the basis of provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Construction of Katni-Gumla National Highway

†2046. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for construction of Katni-Gumla Highway during the financial year 2001-2002 following the decision of constructing the same;

(b) the amount allocated for widening and repair of road out of it;

(c) the amount released; and

(d) the actual amount spent so far on this road alongwith the details of amount demanded and proposed works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Allocation of funds is made State-wise and not National Highway-wise. During the financial year 2001-2002, Rs. 421.71 lakhs has been sanctioned for widening and Rs. 651.72 lakhs for periodical maintenance on Katni-Gumla National Highway No. 78.

(c) The amounts are released State-wise and not National Highway-wise.

(d) Amount spent on National Highway No. 78 during 2001-02 is Rs. 946.13 lakhs (up to February, 2002). Details of works sanctioned on this National Highway is enclosed in the Statement.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.